

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirty-Fifth Annual Session

OF THE

WETUMPKA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

OF THE PRIMITIVE ORDER,

HELD WITH

BETHEL CHURCH,

CHILTON COUNTY, ALABAMA,

September 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1877.

OFFICERS :

BENJAMIN JOWERS,..... MODERATOR.
JAMES BAXLEY. SECRETARY.

WARE & HENDERSON, PRINTERS—TALLADEGA.

MINUTES

Thirty-Fifth Annual Session

WETUMPKA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD AT THE HOME OF

The Introductory Session was presided over by Elder H. J. Jones, from the 5th chapter, and commenced at 10:00 a.m. The session was held for all day and was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. After 40 minutes of the session, the Delegation from the churches composing the Association assembled in the house.

Prayer by Elder J. M. Dixon.

Read the letters from the churches and the Association (see Table).

And reported Elder Benjamin J. Jones, Moderator, and his wife, as having been elected.

Invited Ministerial brethren and lay members to attend the session and called for corresponding minutes.

Appointed committees for the session. Pastor J. M. Dixon, W. W. Butler, I. O. Black, with the lay members of the church, Wm. D. Jones, H. Ward.

To arrange the business to come before the Association.

At Dixon, J. S. Ogilvie, J. P. Ogilvie.

To write the corresponding letters to the churches.

To examine corresponding minutes from the churches.

At Dixon, J. M. Dixon.

Called for Pastors and Churches.

Adjourned until Monday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Prayer by Elder J. M. Dixon.

By Pastor J. M. Dixon.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder B. Jowers, from the 5th chapter, 2nd Corinthians 14th verse, "For the love of Christ constraineth us because we thus judge that if one died for all they were all dead."

After 60 minutes intermission the Delegates from the churches composing the Association assembled in the house.

Prayer by Elder J. M. Dikes.

Read the letters from the churches and enrolled the names of the Delegates (See Table.)

And re-elected Elder Benjamin Jowers Moderator and James Baxley Clerk.

Invited Ministering brethren and Corresponding brethren to seats and called for Corresponding minutes.

Appointed committees as follows :

To arrange preaching during the Session, Brother J. McLe-roy, W. W. Butler, I. C. Black, with the Delegates of Bethel church Wm. Downs, R. Ward.

To arrange the business to come before the Association, J. M. Dikes, J. S. Ogletree J. P. Sayers.

To write the Corresponding letter, L. M. Parker.

To examine Corresponding Minutes; brethren J. W. Herren, W. S. Parish, F. M. Guy.

Called for Petitionary Churches.

Adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock; with Prayer by Brother J. P. Sayers.

Preaching this evening by Brother John A. Suttle; followed by Brother J. S. Baxley.

SUNDAY, Sept. 23.

Preaching this morning by Elder J. P. Sayers, followed by Elder John McLeroy, after noon by J. S. Baxley, followed by Elder B. Jowers.

MONDAY, Sept. 24.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. J. S. Baxley.

Called for the report of the Brethren to arrange business to come before the Association, which was read and adopted.

Called the roll and read the decorum.

Renewed the invitation to Brethren in the ministry and Corresponding Brethren to seats.

Called for Correspondents from sister Associations, and received as follows:

From the Bulah, letter and minutes by her Delegate J. S. Baxley.

From the Primitive Western no Correspondents, and from the Hillabee Delegates J. A. Suttle, John Upshaw.

From the Conecuh River no Correspondents, from the Five Mile Creek, letter by her Delegates T. J. Cross, R. A. Yarbrough.

From the Cane Creek no Correspondents. Received a petitionary letter and minutes by her Delegates Wm. Redding, J. C. Deason, from the Little Hope Association, desiring Correspondence, which, after examining the minutes accepted Correspondents.

Returned Correspondence to sister Associations as follows: to Bulah J. P. Sayers, L. M. Parker, S. Moore, I. C. Blake, J. S. Ogletree, W. W. Butler, J. M. Dikes. To the Primitive Western by letter and minutes.

To Conecuh River by letter and minutes.

To Canecreek by letter and minutes.

To Hillabee J. M. Dikes, James Baxley, J. W. Herren, T. P. Watson.

To Five Mile Creek J. McLeroy, T. P. Watson.

To Little Hope W. S. Parish, J. M. Dikes.

Called for Corresponding letter which was read and adopted.

Called for the report of the Brethren appointed to examine Corresponding minutes who reported they find nothing claiming the attention of this body.

Appointed union meetings, 2nd District entitled to first choice.

1st. District, Coosa River commencing on Friday before the first Sabbath in August 1878.

2nd. District at Bethel commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August 1878.

3rd. District at Ebenezer commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August 1878.

Received contributions and distributed Corresponding minutes.

Contributions from the churches \$28.00.

Agreed to have 600 copies of the minutes printed, the Clerk to superintend the printing and distribution of the same and receive as compensation for his services the balance of money over the printers fee.

Appointed the next Session of this body to be held with Chaney Creek church, Elmore County Ala., commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September 1878.

Called for miscellaneous business and on motion agreed to omit the publication of the abstract of Principles in the present minutes and publish the Constitution and Decorum.

FORM OF CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall meet annually if the churches think proper as an advisory council and be composed of messengers from the different churches, and each church shall have two members and no more.

The messengers names shall be inserted in the letters from the churches which they represent.

Art. 2. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the Wetumpka Baptist Association.

Art. 3. This Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present, who shall be of the body and shall hold these offices untill the next election.

Art. 4. The different churches may express in their letters the number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, and dead since the last Association.

Art. 5. No act of the Association shall be binding on the church, but it shall be its duty to give the best advice in matters of difficulty and endeavor to preserve the union of the churches.

Art. 6. This Association shall receive any church that may petition by letter and delegates if found orthodox in faith and moral in practice, also if any church that is in order wishes to withdraw she may at discretion, or on application may obtain a letter of dismission.

Art. 7. This Association will not fellowship with any church or churches, nor hold them in union who are engaged in supporting any missionary Bible Tract or Sunday School union Society, or advocates State Convention, or Theological Schools nor any other society that has been or may hereafter be formed under a pretence of circulating the Gospel of Christ, nor will she correspond with any Association that is engaged in supporting any of the above named Institutions.

Art. 8. If any church in this union shall become offended with a sister church in point of faith or practice, it shall be the

duty of said church to have an interview with the church thus offending, and if satisfaction is not obtained she shall call in the aid of one or two other churches, who shall investigate the whole matter and decide according to their best judgment and report to the Association which shall be final and entered on the records as such, and if said accused church shall be found guilty as charged, the Association shall withdraw from said church.

Art. 9. This Association may Correspond with other Associations of the same faith and order, and such only, and may withdraw her Correspondents at discretion.

Art. 10. Amendments to this Constitution may be made by two thirds of the members in Session.

Art. 11. This Association shall have power to adjourn to any time and place she may think most convenient to the churches in the union.

DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer and when opened the moderator shall invite brethren to sit with us, that is of our faith and order.

2. If new churches desire to be admitted into this Association, they shall petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination, if found worthy, orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association and manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

3. Every query sent to the Association by any church in the union shall be read and put to vote by the moderator or whether it shall be debated or not, and if there is a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated, but if not it shall be withdrawn, provided always, that those be first considered which effect the union of churches.

4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

5. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the moderator and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he departs from the subject.

6. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

7. No member of the Association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in time of public speech, nor cast reflections on the speaker.

8. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without leave from it.

9. The several names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as the Association may require.

10. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as another member, provided the Chair be filled and he shall have no vote except the Association be equally divided.

11. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular record of the proceedings of the Association.

12. The minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before it rises.

13. Amendments to this form of government may be made at any time by two-thirds of the members present when they may deem it necessary.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Wetumpka Baptist Association to her sister Associations with whom she Corresponds sendeth christian salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN :

Through the goodness and tender mercies of God we have been again permitted to meet in an associate capacity to speak and hear of the power and glory of God. We rejoice to hear that peace and harmony and brotherly love prevail among us. Our Association has been agreeable and harmonious, the preaching from the stand has been in the power and demonstration of the spirit. We still desire a continuance of your brotherly correspondents, and we shall endeavor to reciprocate your favor, your correspondents has not been as full as we desire.

Our next session will be held with Chaney Creek church, Elmore County, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September 1878, 10 miles North of Tallassee and 16 miles North East of Wetumpka, 10 miles South East of Central Institute and 6 miles South West of Double Bridge ferry on Tallapoosa River.

BENJAMIN JOWERS, Moderator.

JAMES BAXLEY, Clerk.

Resolved, That this body tender their thanks to God and respects to the brethren and friends in the vicinity of Bethel church, for their hospitality to us during our stay among them.

Read the minutes and adjourned.

BENJAMIN JOWERS, Moderator.

JAMES BAXLEY, Clerk.

Received of James Baxley, \$10 for printing 600 copies of these minutes.

WARE & HENDERSON.

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